

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /106 W

-----078775 151727Z /53

P 151530Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1200

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PINS, MOPS, CG, LT

SUBJECT: ZAIRE: DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA OFFICIAL

REF: MASERU 1281 (NOTAL)

1. WE INTRIGUED WITH REPORT REFTEL THAT A) BONGO DOES NOT INTEND TO ATTEND KHARTOUM MEETING AND B) HE HAS TRIED TO ADVANCE DATE BY TWO WEEKS. WHILE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD ANY INDICATION OF EITHER POSSIBILITY. INDEED AS RECENTLY AS JUNE 8, AMBASSADOR ASKED BONGO DIRECTLY WHEN HE WAS LEAVING FOR KHARTOUM AND PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE THOUGH IT WOULD BE DURING FIRST HALF OF JULY.

2. RE POSSIBLE CHANGE OF DATES, ONLY THING WE CAN SUGGEST IS BONGO'S PUBLIC OFFER TO HOST PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE ON WESTERN SAHARA "EVEN TEN DAYS BEFORE SUMMIT" (LIBREVILLE 1597 NOTAL).

3. IN SHORT, WHILE IT POSSIBLE THAT BONGO MAY HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT GOING TO KHARTOUM FOR FEAR THAT HE MAY BE
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SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM BY SOME AFRICAN FOR ESPOUSING FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN FORCE AND PROVIDING GABONESE TROOPS FOR SHABA, BONGO DOES NOT USUALLY AVOID THOSE KIND OF SCRAPS. MOREOVER, SINCE IT WILL BE HIS SWAN SONG IN OAU LIMELIGHT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL INCLUDE SPEECH RECAPING OAU (AND HIS) ACHIEVEMENTS OVER PAST YEAT, WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE THAT HE WOULD PASS UP OPPORTUNITY.

4. SINCE WE HAVE SEEN NO OTHER COMPARABLE REPORTS RE BONGO'S
INTENTIONS, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT IF ANYTHING
DEPT OR ADDIS MAY HAVE PICKED UP ON THIS SUBJECT. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV01637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780250-0948
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780656/aaaabwms.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df996088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MASERU 1281
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2341492
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE: DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA OFFICIAL
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PINS, MOPS, CG, LT, (BONGO, EL HADJ OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df996088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014